

Claims

- [c1] A method of gravel packing a hole in a subterranean formation including the step of pumping into the hole a gravel pack composition comprising gravel and a carrier fluid comprising a brine-in-oil emulsion, said emulsion being stabilized by an emulsifier based on at least one sorbitan fatty acid ester presenting a shoulder peak before the peak depicted to be the monomer peak when analyzed by gel permeation chromatography.
- [c2] The method of claim 1, wherein said sorbitan fatty acid ester includes sorbitan monooleate and sorbitan trioleate.
- [c3] The method of claim 1, wherein the ratio between the peak height of the earlier and later peak is greater than 0.5.
- [c4] The method of claim 1, wherein the brine phase is about 50–80% by volume of the carrier fluid.
- [c5] The method of claim 1, wherein the aqueous phase of the carrier fluid further comprises a chelating agent.
- [c6] The method of claim 5, wherein the chelating agent is

selected from the group consisting of di-cationic salts of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), cyclohexylene dinitrilo tetraacetic acid (CDTA), [Ethylenebis(oxyethylenenitrilo)]tetraacetic acid (EGTA) and [(Carboxymethyl)imino]-bis(ethylenenitrilo)-tetra-acetic acid, hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA) and Hydroxyethyliminodiacetic acid (HEIDA).